

**Island County Board of Health
Special Meeting - Tuesday, January 19, 2010
Minutes**

Members Present: Commissioners: Helen Price Johnson, John Dean and Angie Homola; Jim Slowik, Mayor of Oak Harbor; Anne Tarrant, Whidbey General Hospital Commissioner; and Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board.

Members Absent: Captain James Thralls, MSC, U.S. Navy, Ex-Officio Member.

Call to Order: Chair Helen Price Johnson called this Special Meeting of the Island County Board of Health to order at 1:00 p.m.

Additions or Changes to the Agenda: Keith Higman, Health Services Director, asked that the contract with Dr. Christopher Spitters, Item #5 in the Contracts section, be pulled from this agenda as it is not ready for the Board's consideration and signature. It will be presented at next month's meeting. The Chair noted that there was feedback at last month's meeting to move public comment to the beginning of the meetings. The Chair recommended moving the Public Comment opportunity to follow the approval of minutes on the agenda and asked for a motion to make this change and to remove the Christopher Spitters contract from the agenda. Mayor Slowik moved for the changes as stated by the Chair, Commissioner Homola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: The Chair called for the approval of the minutes of the December 21, 2009 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Homola moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Mayor Slowik seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Input or Comments: The Chair noted that this is a Special Session of the Board of Health and as such, the agenda is set and public comments must pertain to the published agenda. Additionally, as a Special Session, only those items on the announced agenda may be discussed and/or acted upon at this session. The Chair invited public comment. David Macys, Oak Harbor, requested clarification as to the point when the Board would invite comments. Would it be at the beginning of the meeting when noted or would they take comments after each agenda item? The Chair clarified that this is a Special Session and comments would be taken today under the Public Input section. At future Regular Meetings, the Board Chair suggested that public comment would be taken during the 'Public Input or Comments' section on the agenda. She would consider accepting comments at selected individual agenda items on an as-needed bases for items that are controversial or for which there is a lot of public interest, but not as a general rule.

Children's Commission Appointments: Keith Higman advised the Board that Mr. Duane Gimbel, Executive Director of South Whidbey Youth Connection, has made application for membership on the Children's Commission. Mr. Gimbel has devoted much of his energies to youth services and the Children's Commission would be delighted to have him appointed to their Commission. Mr. Higman asked for the reappointment to second terms for all but two of the sitting Children's Commission members. This action would leave two open seats. In response to a question by Commissioner Homola, Mr. Higman explained that the Health Department's website contains active solicitation for all the available volunteer opportunities: Medical Reserve Corps, Water Resources Advisory Committee, Children's Commission, and the Community Health Advisory Board. Past advertising in newspapers is very expensive and has not resulted in applications. He further clarified that this was the 2nd term for each of the reappointments and that there was currently no limit to the number of terms.

Mayor Slowik moved for appointment to the Children's Commission as follows:

New Appointment:	Duane Gimbel
Reappointments to second terms:	Peggy Dyer Carol Stillian Janice O'Mahony Bess Windecker Nelson Mark Brown Marjorie Forbes Sandy Ziemer Dave White Cynthia Shelton Kate Grossman

Anne Tarrant seconded and the appointments were approved unanimously.

Presentation: Changes to the WA Universal Vaccine Purchasing Program

Keith Higman advised that Board that he would be doing today's presentation with Caroline Lokkins, Public Health Nurse. There is lots of activity around the state budget but he wants to talk about the change that has been made that will not be reversed even if there is additional revenue generated. One of the significant changes last year was Washington State's move away from being a universal vaccine purchase state to 'something else'. He will talk today about buying vaccine, delivering to providers and ultimate delivery to consumers. Keith introduced Caroline Lokkins, Public Health Nurse who handles the Health Department's vaccine purchasing. Ms. Lokkins started by explaining that 15 years ago state legislators added money to the federal program "Vaccines for Children" (VFC) so that states could buy vaccine at a reduced rate to offer providers. To receive vaccine from this stock, the client must be: 1. Uninsured; 2. Under-insured; 3. Medicaid client; 4. American Indian; or, 5. Alaskan Native.

Washington is one of a handful of universal vaccine states. Ms. Lokkins outlined the list of the vaccines currently available. Providers and Health Departments sign a contract with Department of Health to receive and provide this vaccine and there are rigorous rules guiding the fees and record keeping. In 2009, Island County Health Department immunized 300 children (birth to 19) that qualified for this vaccine. The last legislative session saw the beginning of decreases. By May 1, 2010, funding will be cut for all of the vaccines on the list for those with private insurance. Providers will then have to identify what insurance the client has and must carry two separate stocks of vaccine, one for each of the client groups. A discussion followed.

Mr. Higman summarized that 55% of WA State's kids would qualify for state vaccine which would still be ordered through the Health Department. The other 45% either would pay out of pocket or have insurance coverage and they are not going to be covered under the state plan. For these 45% of kids, doctors will have to figure out a different way of ordering, storing separately, and billing for the vaccine. 64 stakeholders met recently at an Immunization Congress with legislators to define options for consideration. The option with the most traction right now is one where carriers and self-insured employers provide contributions to a state dedicated account with a private, nonprofit foundation governed by stakeholders setting the amount of contribution/assessment. The legislature is also working on a couple of fallback bills.

Resolution No. HD-02-10 Committing to repay funds borrowed from the Washington State Water Pollution Control Revolving Funds and to continue to fund a Water Quality Assistance Fund (W.Q.A.F.) Loan Program to provide low interest loans for the repair of failing on-site sewage systems. Keith Higman explained that the Board will be considering a contract with the Department of Ecology for the On-Site Financial Assistance Program which requires, as part of the on-site loan arrangement, that the Board of County Commissioners adopt a resolution agreeing to repay the loan in full. The Health Department, as a matter of practice, recognizes the Board of Health as the policy setting Board and is bringing this resolution before the Board of Health for cosigning. Commissioner Dean moved for approval and signature of Resolution HD-02-10, Commissioner Homola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Contracts:

Keith Higman presented the following contracts for consideration:

1. Washington State Department of Ecology – On-Site Financial Assistance Program
Contract No. L1000014
Contract Amount: \$ 300,000
2. Health Officer 2010-2011 – Dr. Roger Case, MD
Contract No. HD-18-09
Contract Amount: \$ 109,095
3. Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) – Lead Entity/Salmon Project
Contract No. 09-1500N, Amendment No. 1
Contract Amount: \$ 163,118
Amendment Amount: \$ 63,118

4. Department of Health – Consolidated Contract

Contract No. C14949, Amendment No. 21

Contract Amount: \$ 3,035,730

Amendment Amount: \$ 235,543

Mayor Slowik asked for a clarification on the scope of the Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO)/Lead Entity grant and a discussion followed. Commissioner Dean moved for approval of the Department of Ecology Contract No. L1000014 and Health Officer contracts as presented. Commissioner Homola seconded and the Board approved the motion unanimously. Commissioner Dean moved for approval of the Recreation & Conservation Office Contract 09-1500N, Amendment No. 1 as presented. Commissioners Dean, Homola, Price Johnson and Member Anne Tarrant voted for approval, Mayor Slowik voted opposed. Commissioner Dean moved for approval of the Department of Health Contract C14949, Amendment No. 21. Commissioner Homola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Health Department Report: Keith Higman noted that his opportunity to sit on the State Board of Health allows him a window into current legislative initiatives. The Governor has submitted what she is calling her 'Book 1' budget which is mandated by state law to be balanced without any additional revenue and it hits public health very hard. Last week the Governor introduced her 'Book 2' budget with approximately \$779M proposed additional revenue and includes a 'buy-back' list which would restore many of the Public Health programs cut in Book 1. The last day of the session is March 11th and we may have answers by mid March. Mr. Higman went on to advise the Board of two bills introduced in the state legislature that might interest them. The first is House Bill 2388 which would tax candy for the benefit of stable funding Public Health. The second is Bill 2870 which Representative Barbara Bailey introduced to amend State Board of Health rules pertaining to septic inspections which would require local Boards of Health to allow for a homeowner inspection option.

Adjourn: There being no further business, Chair Price Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m. The next Board of Health will be a Special Meeting to be held on February 16, 2010.

Submitted: _____
Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved this 16th day of February 2010
ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Helen Price Johnson, Board Chair